JFK files: Support for any theory

New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON—From the raw record of a national nightmare, committed to paper, stamped top secret and filed away for 30 years: a 1959 urinalysis of Lee Harvey Oswald; frantic requests for dossiers on the man arrested as John F. Kennedy's assassin; ballistics tests on the mail-order rifle; a scale model of the grassy knoll.

The National Archives' huge cache of government documents on the assassination of President Kennedy was opened Monday, offering a treasure trove for conspiracy theorists, a wealth of arcane details for historians and a bottomless pit of memory, loss and mystery for those who recall the president's murder.

Included were 90,000 pages of documents from the Central Intelligence Agency, thousands of presidential papers, investigative files, photographs and memorandums.

'This will feed another generation of assassination buffs, the children of assassination buffs.'

Edward Jay Epstein

The files show how the CIA scrambled hours after the assassination on Nov. 22, 1963, to locate dossiers on Oswald (they found 30).

They record a CIA official's fear that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was tailing him as he met with the mobster the CIA had hired to kill Fidel Castro.

They include a thousand shards of evidence, and thousands more of hearsay, rumor, gossip, innuendo and nonsense.

Since thousands of CIA records and other materials remain classified, pieces still are missing from the puzzle. And the information disclosed amounted to less than the 1,053 boxes of materials opened Monday. A surprisingly large number of the documents consisted of newspaper clippings stamped secret by the CIA and multiple copies of the same report from different files.

But for those who believe that the assassina-

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